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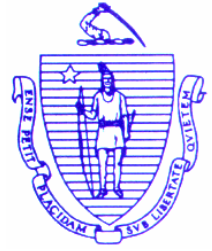
Division of Marine Fisheries

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MASSACHUSETTS BOATING INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT PROGRAM 2004 GRANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Application Deadline: September 3, 2004

The Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries is administering the U.S Department of the Interior's Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG) Program. The BIG Program, begun four years ago, is a two – tiered program, paid for by money from the Sport Fish Restoration Fund which in turn is funded by a small percentage of the Federal Gasoline Tax – an amount which represents fuel purchased by boaters across the nation. The Sport Fish Restoration Fund has financed many projects which have helped people enjoy our state's aquatic resources over the years. They include hundreds of publicly owned launch ramps; the Clean Vessel Act, which pays for pumpout stations; and the latest effort, B.I.G., which will encourage those who own larger, non – trailerable boats that cannot use launching ramps, to travel from port to port in Commonwealth waters. This program is designed to provide grants to upgrade or install facilities for transient recreational boats 26 feet or more in length at public or partnered private facilities.

The program is a reimbursement grant, meaning that payments are made upon the submission of invoices for work accomplished. If selected for an award, applicants must provide at least a 25% match for Federal funds received. All payments will be based on 75% reimbursement of invoices from work completed. The federal regulation on BIG can be viewed in its entirety at the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Website: <http://fa.r9.fws.gov/>, under the heading, "Boating Infrastructure Grant Program Final Rule – PDF".

The purpose of this letter is to solicit grant requests for eligible projects that you would like to have considered for funding under either Tier One or Tier Two levels of the B.I.G. The first stage, **Tier One**, is limited to about \$100,000 per year per state, but has the advantage of using a more streamlined regional approval process. The Massachusetts Program attempts to fund as many qualified projects as possible each year under Tier One. In 2003, three Tier One projects were approved. Proposed projects filed under **Tier Two** can be much larger in scope than those in Tier One. Unlike the latter, Tier Two proposals are judged in a nationally competitive process based on a strict point system. Included in this mailing is a list of the types of projects that are eligible for funding under the B.I.G. Program. Projects will have to go through all the standard permitting processes, both federal and state that they would be obliged to do for any privately or locally funded project.

When submitting an application to the B.I.G. Program, please use this format. Include descriptive paragraph(s) for each of the following:

1. Need: State why the facilities are needed or need improvement.
2. Objective: Provide a concise statement of what the project will accomplish in terms of the stated need.
3. Expected Benefits and Results: **All proposed work must directly benefit transient boaters operating vessels 26 feet and larger.** Identify, and to the extent feasible quantify, the recreational user benefits or other user benefits to be provided as a result of this project. Proposed user fees must be described.

An Agency of the Department of Fish & Game
David M. Peters, Commissioner

4. Approach: Describe how the work is to be done and how environmental safeguards and innovative technologies will be employed to avoid and/or minimize impacts to fisheries resources and habitats. Formal plans are preferred but are not required at this time; however, clear illustrations will be needed for review purposes.
5. Budget Summary: Include a breakdown of project costs including project design, permitting, construction, and supplies.
6. Location: Identify the specific project location. Include a USGS topo map or NOAA harbor chart showing the location.
7. Permits: State whether any state or federal permits been obtained. If no permits have been issued, how quickly can they be obtained? What review thresholds will be triggered?
8. Environmental Impact Assessment: Applicants must be able to demonstrate that their proposal will comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).
9. Match: Identify local means of funding.
10. Other Information – Name, address, phone number, e-mail address, etc. for the project contact person.

Project proposals must be received by **September 3, 2004**. All submissions will be reviewed by an inter-agency committee to determine which projects will be forwarded to the Department of Interior as part of the Commonwealth's grant application. Please keep in mind that if your project is selected for funding, funds will not be available before the federal review process is completed in 2005. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (978) 282-0308 x 133) or e-mail me at stephanie.cunningham@state.ma.us.

Mail to:

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Boating Infrastructure Grant Program
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